

Pfizer Independent Medical Education Request for Proposals

Improving the Therapeutic Environment for Metastatic Breast Cancer

Competitive Grant Program – Pfizer Internal Review Process

Overview

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is seeking grant applications for medical education projects for young healthcare professionals in order to accelerate the improvement of the therapeutic environment for metastatic breast cancer (mBC).

Geographic Scope

Japan

Project Types and Area of Interest

- Educational programs that lead to the elimination of regional differences in expertise, treatment, and therapeutic environment.
- Educational programs and initiatives for young healthcare professionals to raise their level of expertise and improve patient care.
- Educational programs to promote knowledge and understanding of real-world evidence in mBC treatment practices.
- Educational programs to promote understanding of Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO) and other indicators relevant to patient-centered treatment plans.

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **July 2, 2024**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **October 31, 2024**
- Anticipated project start date: **January 1, 2025**

Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 4,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- Anticipated approximate project start and end dates: January 2025 – June 2026 (around 18 months overall length)

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Japan

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations/medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or healthcare improvement.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups (i.e., an independent group of physicians not affiliated with a hospital, academic institution, or professional society).
- If the project involves multiple departments within an institution and/or between different institutions / organizations / associations, all institutions must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.
- The applicant must be the project/program lead or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., project/program lead's grant coordinator).
- The project/program lead must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International LLC. We strongly recommend that applicants confirm this with their organization or institution prior to submitting an application. Grants awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer International LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- April 24, 2024

Clinical Area

- Metastatic breast cancer (mBC)

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Breast cancer is known as the most common cancer in women which has a relatively long prognosis, whereas the prognosis of metastatic breast cancer depends on the subtype, and the treatment strategy varies widely according to ER and HER2 expression status.

In breast cancer practice guidelines, the combination of endocrine therapy and CDK4/6 inhibitors is strongly recommended as standard treatment for ER-positive HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer^{1,2,3}. Although real-world evidence has been accumulated based on actual clinical practice of CDK4/6 inhibitors since the approval of them in 2017, regional differences still exist in the therapeutic environment for metastatic breast cancer.

In addition, young healthcare professionals also have limited opportunities to gain experience in breast cancer. Particularly, young healthcare professionals in rural areas have fewer opportunities to interact with experienced doctors and attend study groups compared with those in urban areas.

Under these circumstances, there is a significant opportunity to equalize regional differences and to address the educational needs of young healthcare professionals.

- Pfizer is seeking proposals for educational projects that address the following issues related to metastatic breast cancer. The topics below are only suggestions, and applications related to other aspects not listed below are also welcome:
 - Educational programs that lead to the elimination of regional differences in expertise, treatment, and therapeutic environment.
 - Educational programs and initiatives for young healthcare professionals to raise their level of expertise and improve patient care.
 - Educational programs to promote knowledge and understanding of real-world evidence in mBC treatment practices.
 - Educational programs to promote understanding of Patient-Reported Outcomes (PRO) and other indicators relevant to patient-centered treatment plans.
- Educational projects can be considered in the form of events, satellite symposia, hands-on seminars, workshops, online courses, printed materials, digital tools and so on.

It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered. In addition, it is not also our intent to support guideline development (e.g., clinical treatment guidelines) from the viewpoint of COI.

Target Audience

- Physicians, nurses, pharmacists, clinical laboratory technologists and other health care professionals involved in testing, diagnosis, treatment, comprehensive care, and social support for patients with metastatic breast cancer.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 4,000,000 JPY will be considered.

Key Dates:

- RFP release date: April 24, 2024
- Grant Application due date: July 2, 2024
Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Grant Award Notification Date: October 31, 2024
- Grants will be distributed following a fully executed agreement.
- Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: January 2025 to June 2026

How to Submit:

Note: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled.

- www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/IndependentMedEd and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”.
- Click the "Start a New Independent Medical Education Application" button.
- In the application:
- For the question “What type of request are you submitting?” select Response to a Request for Proposal (RFP)
- For the question “Are you replying to a Request for Proposal (RFP) as part of the Competitive Grant Program?” select Yes

- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2024 ONC JP Improving the Therapeutic Environment for Metastatic Breast Cancer IME
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: Oncology – Breast –IME
- Requirements for submission:
Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the General RFP Submission field.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page.

IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

Questions:

If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Akihiro Kamina (meg.japan@pfizer.com), with the subject line “Improving the Therapeutic Environment for Metastatic Breast Cancer”.

Grant Agreements:

- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer International LLC. Please click [here](#) to view the core terms of the agreement.
- Under Pfizer's competitive grant program, modifications to grant agreements will not be reviewed unless a genuine conflict exists as between applicable law and the terms of the relevant grant agreement. Applicant is encouraged to share the core terms with counsel for approval prior to submitting an application.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer Legal, payment of grant funding may only be paid to the grantee organization.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final grant decisions.

Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:

- All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.
- Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.

References

1. The Japanese Breast Cancer Society Clinical Practice Guidelines for systemic treatment of breast cancer, 2022 edition
2. Gennari, A et al. “ESMO Clinical Practice Guideline for the diagnosis, staging and treatment of patients with metastatic breast cancer.” *Annals of oncology : official journal of the European Society for Medical Oncology* vol. 32,12 (2021): 1475-1495. doi:10.1016/j.annonc.2021.09.019
3. Al Sukhun, Sana et al. “Systemic Treatment of Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer: ASCO Resource-Stratified Guideline.” *JCO global oncology* vol. 10 (2024): e2300285. doi:10.1200/GO.23.00285

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) supports the global healthcare community's independent initiatives (e.g., research, quality improvement, or education) to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

Pfizer's GMG competitive grant program involves a publicly posted general Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a general area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval, and uses an internal Pfizer review process to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the knowledge gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all independent medical education grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct of the independent education program.

Appendix

General RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the [How to Submit](#) section. Project Proposals should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit exclusive of references. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project.
- List the objectives you plan to meet with your project, in terms of learning and expected outcomes.

Needs Assessment for the Project

- Include a description of your organization's needs assessment for this proposed project which may include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics, or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in your target area.

Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes. Describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population.

Project Design and Methods

- Describe the planned project, the educational approach, and the way the planned methods address the established need.

Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed. Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions.

Evaluation and Outcomes

- In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how your organization will determine if the gap was addressed for the target group. Identify the sources of data your organization anticipates using to make the determination. Describe how your organization is expected to collect and analyze the data. Explain the method used to control for other factors outside this project (e.g., use of a control group or comparison with baseline data). Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms the target audience. Describe how your organization will determine if the target audience was fully engaged in the project.

Dissemination Plan

- Describe how the project may have extended benefit beyond the grant. Will the teaching materials be made available to others to use? Will there be tools or resources that are made publicly available beyond the initial project. Describe how the project outcomes might be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here

Organization Detail

- Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

Budget Detail

- Please include a budget narrative that describes in greater detail the line items specified in the budget submitted within the application.
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
- Independent Medical Education Grants awarded by GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic assets (prescription or non-prescription).
 - Overhead rates of up to 28% of the total proposed project budget may be supported by Pfizer. Please [click here](#) for details. General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting etc. should be included in an Institutional Overhead (if required). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study (e.g., some countries require insurance to be taken out on a per-study basis for clinical research) would be acceptable to be included as line items.